

Safe Places to Leave your Baby



Having a baby can bring great joy, excitement and love into a parent's life. Raising a child can be stressful and difficult for some parents to manage.

If for any reason you feel you cannot parent your child, there are safe places where you can leave your baby. Safe places will take your baby with open arms, no questions asked. These secure places will make sure your baby receives the care and protection he or she deserves.

A state law in South Dakota allows you to voluntarily leave your baby with a hospital or child placement agency if your child is less than 60 days old. Leaving your baby with one of these places is not a crime *as long as your child has not been harmed.*

You can leave your baby with:

- **hospitals or clinics**
- **law enforcement officers**
- **licensed child placement agencies**
- **the Department of Social Services**
- **emergency medical technicians**
- **firefighters**

You may be asked for pertinent medical information relating to your baby's medical history. However, you will not be required to provide any information, including your name or the other parent's name.

Your Parental Rights Will Be Terminated

If you don't *express your intent* to return for your baby, your parental rights to your child will be terminated after 14 days. Your baby will then become a ward of the state or the licensed child placement agency.

The place where you leave your baby must notify the Department of Social Services (DSS) that it has your



child. DSS cannot attempt to identify, contact or investigate you unless it appears your child has been harmed. DSS or the child placement agency will take custody and care for your baby.

Your baby's mother or father has a right to file for custody after you have given him or her up. To gain custody, the other parent has 30 days to prove he or she is the parent of your baby and that he or she did not consent to giving up the child's custody.

If the other parent doesn't come forward and 60 days have passed, a circuit court hearing will be held to terminate your parental rights. *This means you will no longer have any rights to your baby.*

* For more information on this law, see SDCL 25-5A-27 through 25-5A-35. If applicable, the Indian Child Welfare Act must be followed.

Safe Places to Consider:

All About U Adoptions:

Phone: 949-2907

229 E. 2nd Ave., Suite 2, Milbank, SD 57252

Bethany Christian Services:

Phone: 336-6999

629 S. Minnesota, Suite 101, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4875

Bethany Christian Services of Western SD:

Phone: 343-7196

2525 W. Main St. #309, Rapid City, SD 57702-2443

Catholic Family Services:

Phone: 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867

523 N. Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714

Catholic Social Services:

Phone: 348-6086

918 5th St., Rapid City, SD 57701-3798

LDS Family Services:

Phone: 342-3500

2525 W. Main St., Suite 310, Rapid City, SD 57702-2443

Lutheran Social Services:

Phone: 336-3347

600 W. 12th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Lutheran Social Services:

Phone: 348-0477

2920 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, SD 57701

New Horizons Adoption Agency, Inc.:

Phone: 332-0310

519 W. 10th St. #103, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-3619

You can leave your baby at any Social Services office.

Aberdeen: 1-866-858-3204, 422 S.
Washington, PO Box 1300, 57402-1300

Belle Fourche: 1-866-847-7334
609 5th Ave., 57717-1405

Brookings: 1-866-847-7335
1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 101, 57006-3893

Chamberlain: 1-866-847-7339
320 Sorenson Drive, 57325-1022

Custer: 1-866-847-7334
1164 Mt. Rushmore Rd, #3, 57730-2133

Deadwood: 1-866-874-7334
20 Cliff St., PO Box 607, 57732-0607

Eagle Butte: 1-866-442-2095
1302 N. Willow, PO Box 530, 57625-0530

Hot Springs: 1-866-847-7334
2500 Minnekahta Ave., Building 1,
PO Box 729, 57747-0729

Huron: 1-866-858-3204, 110 3rd St. SW,
Suite 200, 57350-2450

Lake Andes: 1-866-293-0845
3rd & Lake, PO Box 190, 57356-0190

Martin: 1-866-847-7337
404 3rd Ave., PO Box 250, 57551-0250

Mission: 1-866-847-7339 671 N. Marge
Lane, PO Box 818, 57555-0818

Mitchell: 1-866-293-0845
116 E. 11th Ave., 57301-1432

Mobridge: 1-866-442-2095
920 6th St. W., PO Box 160, 57601-0160

Pierre: 1-866-442-2095
912 E. Sioux, 57501-3490

Pine Ridge: 1-866-847-7337
Planning Center-Airport, Hwy 18,
PO Box 279, 57770-0279

Rapid City: 394-2525, 510 N. Cambell,
PO Box 2440, 57709-2440

Sioux Falls: 367-7602
811 E. 10th St., Department 6, 57103-1650

Sturgis: 1-866-847-7334
2200 W. Main St., 57785-1338

Vermillion: 1-866-847-7338
114 Market St., PO Box 516, 57069-0516

Watertown: 1-866-847-7335
2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 300, PO Box 670,
57201-0670

Winner: 1-866-847-7339
649 W. 2nd St., PO Box 31, 57580-0031

Yankton: 1-866-847-7338
3113 Spruce St., Suite 200, 57078-5320

Contact the South Dakota
Department of Social Services
for more information:

Address: 700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Phone: 605-773-3227

Email: CPS@state.sd.us

Web: www.dss.sd.gov



DSS Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291 or call: (605) 773-3305. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest DSS office.

5,000 copies of this document were printed by DSS at a cost of 13 cents per copy. DSS/5M/0706

SAFE HAVENS in South Dakota



Secure Places to Leave your Baby, No Questions Asked.

